(c) how many vans are likely to be put on the road in the near future in Delhi and other major cities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) ITDC deployed two Yatri Vans in Delhi during 1982-83 at a cost of Rs. 4.91 lakhs.

(b) Information is as under:

Year	Estimated Profit/Loss (+) (—) (Rs. in lakhs)
1982-83	(—) 0.95
1983-84 (provisional)(upto 1.8.83)	(—)0.42

Due to uneconomic operation, these Vans were discontinued with effect from 2.8.1983.

(c) The Corporation does not have any plan to introduce the Yatri Vans in Delhi or in other major cities in the country.

Heavy loss due to S.T.C. cardamom export deal

1537. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has lost over Rs. 1 crore in foreign exchange due to S.T.C. 'blunders' on cardamom export deal as reported in the Business Standard dated the 21st June, 1984;

(b) if so, what corrective steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that cardamom production has gone down despite major breakthrough in agricultural research and development and if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to improve the production of cardamom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The decline in cardamom production was mainly due to un-precedented drought which prevailed during the last two years. The major steps taken by the Government to boost the production are as under;

1. Replanting loan-cum-subsidy scheme for small growers.

2. Extension of Replantation loan-cum-subsidy scheme to large growers.

3. Production of seedlings in polythene bags in certified nurseries to distribute among the growers.

4. Opening of 200 certified nurseries for producing 24,000 seedlings of cardamom annually to distribute among the growers.

Production of spices

1538. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the spices grown in our country and are available for export;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to set up a spices Board for export promotion as well as for encouraging its production;

(c) if so, by when the Board is likely to set up;

(d) what have been the foreign exchange earnings from export of spices item-wise during the last three years;

(e) what other steps are being taken to increase the production of spices in the country;

(f) whether any spices are also being imported; and

(g) if so, what are the details in this regard and the amount spent on their import, item-wise, during the last three years?